

FOREST LAND

PLANNING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS)

Successful resource management on forest land is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the total forest land ecosystem – the soil, water, air, plant, animal resources, and the objectives of the land user.

The minimum criteria that must be met on forest land for each of the resource concerns is explained in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide.

In planning a forest land RMS, forest vegetative management is the foundation on which the RMS is built. Essential measures that must be addressed on all forestlands are protection of the vegetative resources from destructive fires and grazing. To accomplish this, conservation practices such as Fencing, Firebreaks, and Use Exclusion may, depending on the site-by-site situation, be essential. In addition, those practices that during the planning process, are determined to be important to maintaining the health of the forest resource and preserve the quality of the soil and water resources, may also be considered essential. These practices may include, but are not limited, to Forest Stand Improvement, Forest Trails and Landings, and Riparian Forest Buffer. A forest management plan that addresses and meets the needs of the plants, animals, soil, water, and air is essential to the formulation of a RMS on forest land.

All other practices planned on forest land are either to facilitate the application of the identified essential measures or practices and are described as DESIRABLE practices, or as needed practices to accelerate changes in the ecosystem and are identified as NEEDED practices. These NEEDED practices are planned when needed to address site-specific resource problems to meet the criteria for managing the soil, water, plant, animal, and air.

The Resource Management System for Forest Land includes a combination of practices that are:

1. **ESSENTIAL** – Protection against destructive grazing and fire are essential measures that must be addressed during planning on all forestlands. Site specific conservation practices may be identified as being essential to accomplishing these measures and must therefore be planned. In addition conservation practices that will be critical to maintaining the resource base during the application of these or other planned conservation practices will also be essential. The exception is when forest land is maintained only for the protection of a watershed. Then no essential practices exist.

**Forest Land Planning Resource Management Systems –
Page 2**

2. NEEDED – These practices are planned when necessary to cause or accelerate changes in the forest ecosystem that is not adequately addressed with forest land management practice alone and are required to address site specific resource problems.
3. DESIRABLE – Practices that facilitate or enhance essential practices.

A RMS on forest land is developed with the landowner through the planning process. The essential practices plus the combination of desirable and/or needed practice whose combined effects will meet the criteria established for each resource (soil, water, air, plant, and animal). When multiple land use is an objective, the needs and effects of each use must be considered in the selection and application design of each practice to ensure compatibility. The RMS must also meet the quality level for forest land is defined as: Trees are well distributed; vigorous; relatively free of disease, insects or other damage; and the density of the stand is within 25% of the forest stand density guide for the forest type.

The following is a list of essential, desirable, and needed practices applicable to forest land.

Essential Practices

Forest Trails and Landings
Prescribed Grazing (when livestock are present)
Riparian Forest Buffer

Needed Practices

Access Road
Forest Stand Improvement

Desirable Practices

Bedding
Critical Area Planting
Filter Strip
Firebreak
Forest Site Preparation
Grade Stabilization Structure
Mulching
Prescribed Burning
Stream Bank and Shoreline Protection
Tree/Shrub Establishment
Tree/Shrub Pruning
Use Exclusion